

Please add the following new claims:

11. (New) A rotary slide valve for a power-assisted steering system of a motor vehicle, comprising:

- a torsion-bar spring;
- a backlash coupling;
- a connecting element;
- a valve input member;
- a valve output member;
- a valve housing;
- a first valve element rotationally fixedly connected to the valve input member and connected to the valve output member via the torsion-bar spring, the backlash coupling and the connecting element, the connecting element including at least one cut disposed in a first region between a connection region and a control region; and
- a second valve element rotationally fixedly connected to the valve output member;

wherein the first valve element and the second valve element are arranged coaxially movable one in the other in the valve housing and are rotatable relative to one another at most by an amount of rotary travel of the backlash coupling, a radially outer one of the first valve element and the second valve element having inner longitudinal control grooves, a radially inner one of the first valve element and the second valve element having outer longitudinal control grooves, an axial length of the control grooves being at least partially limited, the control grooves being configured to cooperate with one another to control a pressure medium to and from two working spaces of a servomotor.

12. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the control grooves are configured conically to adjust a characteristic curve.

13. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the first valve element and the valve output member are connected one of positively and nonpositively.

14. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 13, wherein one of the connecting element and the valve output member includes a boss contour.

15. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the first region is torsionally rigid and flexible.

16. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the cut is continuous.

17. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the cut includes a groove.

18. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the first region includes a hollow shaft.

19. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the first region includes a solid shaft.

20. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the first region includes a polygonal profile.

21. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the cuts are formed by one of high-energy beam cutting, plasma cutting, erosion cutting, punching, grinding and milling.

22. (New) The rotary slide valve according to claim 11, wherein the connecting element includes a control bush, the connecting element being formed at least in one piece with the control bush.--.

#### **REMARKS**

This Preliminary Amendment cancels, without prejudice, claims 1 to 10 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/04072 and adds new claims 11 to 22. The new claims, inter alia, conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and does not add any new matter to the application.

. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(3), the Substitute Specification (including the Abstract, but without the claims) contains no new matter. The amendments reflected in the Substitute Specification (including Abstract) are to